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Prostitution is one of the social problems in Thailand. Strategies to prevent girls and women entering this work are necessary. Promoting prostitutes to give up their work is an option to reduce the magnitude of the problem. This study aimed to explore the degree of intention to give up commercial sex work by analyzing the influence of various factors related to the intention. The data were drawn from a research project titled Behavioral Research for AIDS Prevention in Thailand, 1992-1993 in which 678 low-cost female commercial sex workers were interviewed.

The analysis revealed that of all commercial sex workers in the sample only 13.57 percent had strong intention to give up commercial sex work; the majority had moderate and low intention (68.1 and 25.4 percent, respectively). There was the significant relationship between working-time as a commercial sex worker and the intention to give up commercial sex work. The shorter the time since entering commercial sex work, the higher the intention to give up commercial sex work quickly.

The result of multiple regression analysis showed that having options after leaving commercial sex work has a significant effect on the intention to give up commercial sex work. The power of prediction of these variables could explain about 1.7 percent of intention. This finding confirmed one of the two hypotheses, that having options after leaving commercial sex work would increase the intention to leave commercial sex work. The other hypothesis, that having AIDS/STDs knowledge would increase the intention to leave commercial sex work was not confirmed.